

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1 and 3-8 are currently pending in this application.

### ***Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement***

Applicant provides herewith a supplemental IDS listing the references from the previously submitted EPO search report dated December 21, 2001.

### ***Submission of Priority Document***

Applicant provides herewith a certified translation of the priority document, Japanese Application No. 9-339695 (1997). Applicant respectfully submits that such translation establishes the right to the December 10, 1997 priority date, which removes *Holtermann* and *Fukunaga* as prior art. Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance.

## CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be helpful in expediting the application, she is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (972) 731-2288.

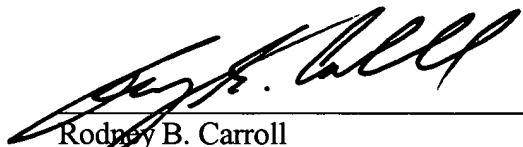
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fee associated with any of the foregoing papers submitted herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-1515, Conley Rose, P.C.

Respectfully submitted,

CONLEY ROSE, P.C.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4-15-04



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